

MARVEL
COMICS



1
MAY
RATED PA

APPROVED
BY THE
MARVEL
COMICS
MEA
AUTHORITY

DANNY KETCH

GHOST RIDER

MACKIE • PICCIOTTO • GURU-eFX



MARVEL

PARENTAL ADVISORY

YEARS AGO...

IF YOU TELL ANYONE
WHO KNOWS BROOKLYN
THAT YOU LIVE IN
CYPRESS HILLS...

...THEIR
RESPONSE IS
GOING TO BE,
"NEAR THE
CEMETERY?"

THE THING IS,
ALL OF CYPRESS
HILLS IS "NEAR
THE CEMETERY."

DURING
MOST DAYS,
CEMETERIES
ARE QUIET
AND PEACEFUL
PLACES IN
WHICH THOSE
WHO HAVE
PASSED
BEYOND THE
VEIL REST
AND ARE
REMEMBERED.

BUT IN THE OLDEST
CEMETERIES, THINGS
OFTEN CHANGE WHEN
DARKNESS FALLS.

AT THESE TIMES,
THINGS ARE
RARELY PEACEFUL...

...AND OFTEN
DANGEROUS.

FWAK

KRAK



SO MUCH INNOCENT BLOOD!
YOU MUST FEEL THEIR PAIN!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA, GHOST RIDER...

BLOOD AND VENGEANCE

HOWARD MACKIE writer	DANIEL PICCIOTTO artist	GURU- eFX colorist	VC's TRAVIS LANHAM letterer	BEN HARVEY cover	FEDERICO VICENTINI & EDGAR DELGADO; JAVIER SALTARES & FRANK D'ARMATA; LOGAN LUBERA & RACHELLE ROSENBERG; MARK TEXEIRA variants KAT GREGOROWICZ asst. editor DARREN SHAN editor C.B. CEBULSKI editor in chief
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...HOW MUCH PAIN IS COURSEING THROUGH MY BODY!

THROUGH MY BRAIN!



ARRRRRGH! IT'S NOT WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR!

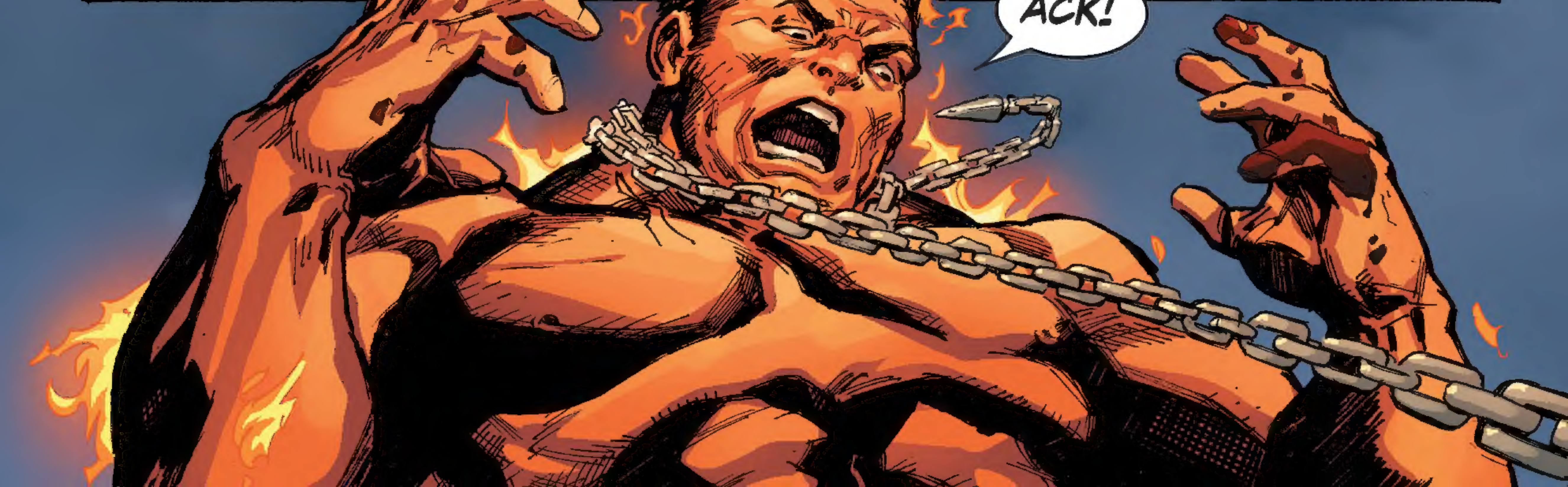
THUD



FWAMM



TCHK



ACK!



YOU MAY
THINK YOU
KNOW PAIN,
BUT...



...NOW
YOU WILL FEEL
THE PAIN OF
ALL THOSE YOU
HAVE HARMED
TONIGHT.

YOU
WILL
FEEL...



...THE
PENANCE
STARE!

NO...
NO...NO...
NO...

Noooooo!

HE SAID THAT NO ONE
COULD HURT ME...
EVER AGAIN!

HE...
P-P-PROMISED...
I WOULD GET
BIGGER...STRONGER.
TH-TH-THAT NO ONE
WOULD LAUGH AT
ME AGAIN.

NOT MY FORMER TEACHERS...
OR CLASSMATES...N-N-NO
ONE WOULD LAUGH. BUT
H-HE SAID--ARGGGH!
NOOOO!

WHO DID
THIS TO
YOU?

I...
D-D-DON'T...
KNOW.

FREEZE!
HANDS
WHERE WE
CAN SEE THEM
OR WE'LL
SHOOT!

THAT VOICE. IT'S
STACY DOLAN.

DANNY KETCH--
MY HOST--
LOVES HER.

SHE
DOESN'T
KNOW THAT
HE AND I
ARE ONE.

**KRAK KRAK
KRAK KRAK**

YOU
ALWAYS
SHOOT.



I'M SORRY,
MASTER, IF THAT WAS
UNSATISFACTORY.

PERHAPS
I CHOSE POORLY
WHEN GIVING OUR
YOUNG FRIEND
YOUR GIFT.



DON'T BE
SO HARD ON
YOURSELF, MY
BROKER. YOUR
CATCH PROVIDED
AN AMUSING
TASTE FOR ME.
SHORT THOUGH
IT MAY HAVE
BEEN.



BUT
THIS FLAMING-
SKULLED
DEMON...

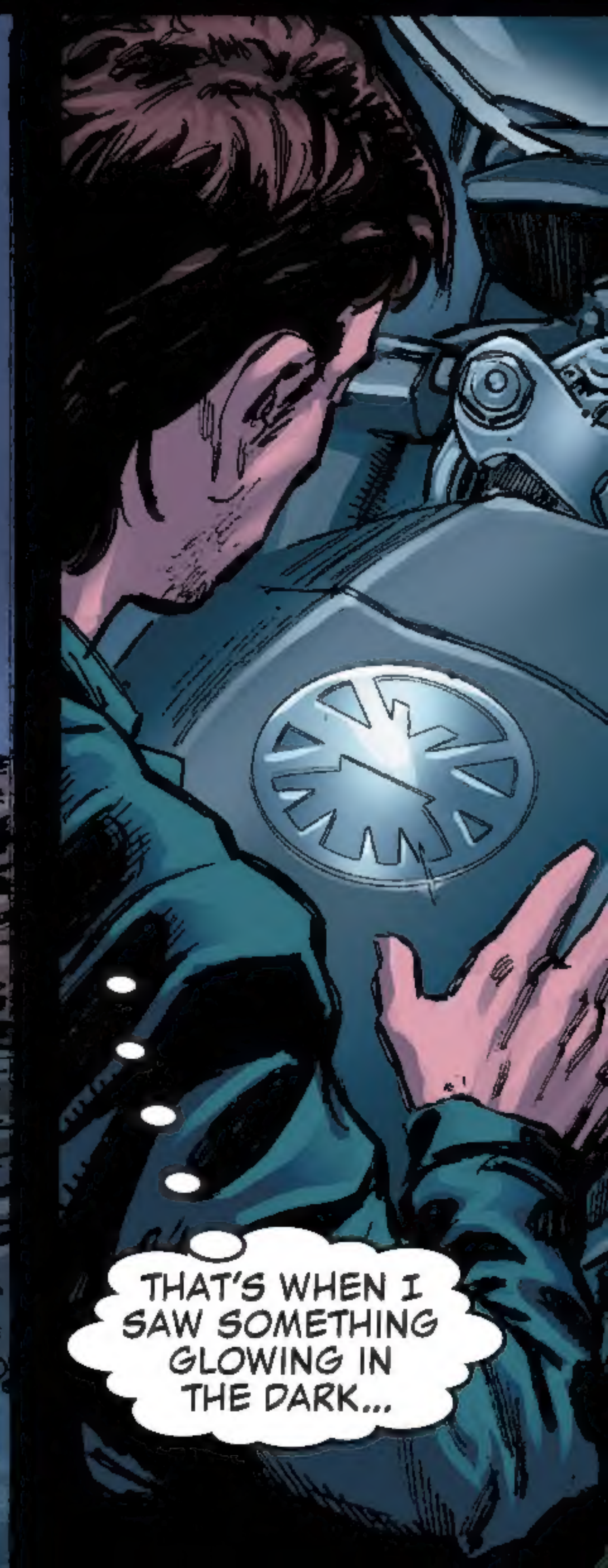
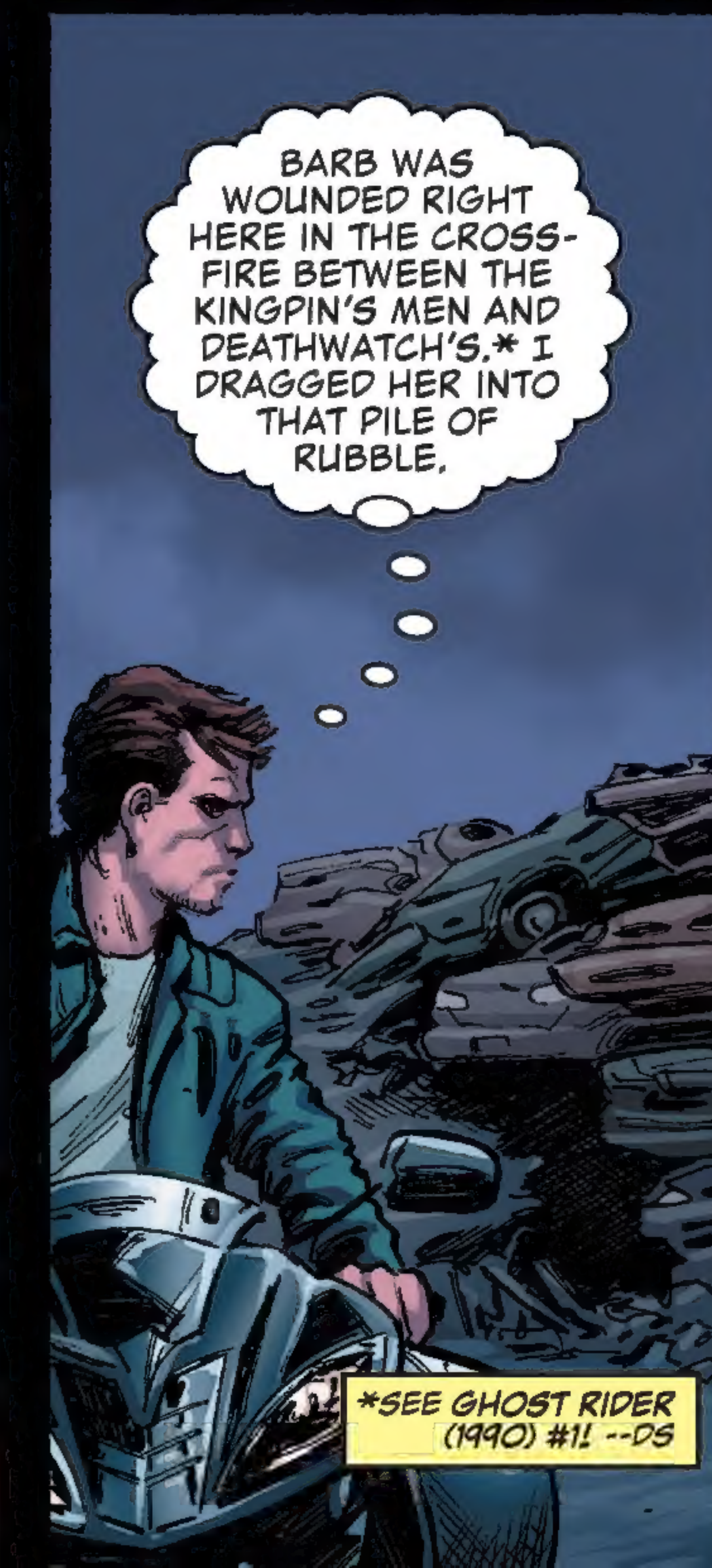
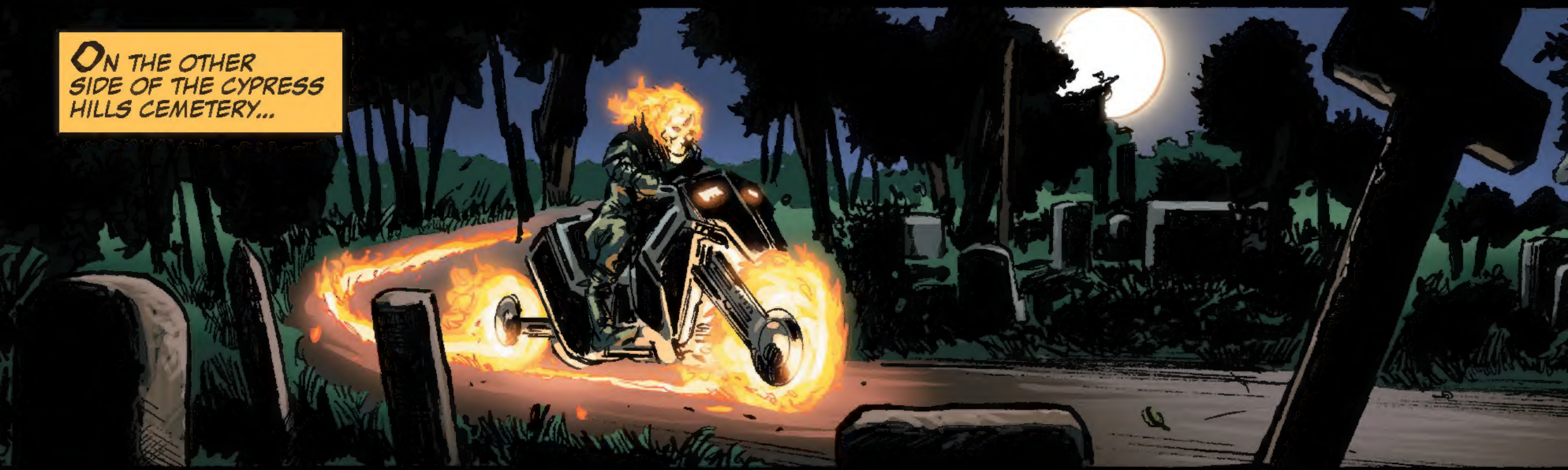
...I AM
DRAWN TO
SOMETHING
ABOUT
HIM.

I
WANT
HIM.

YES,
MASTER, BUT
FIRST...THE
OTHERS?

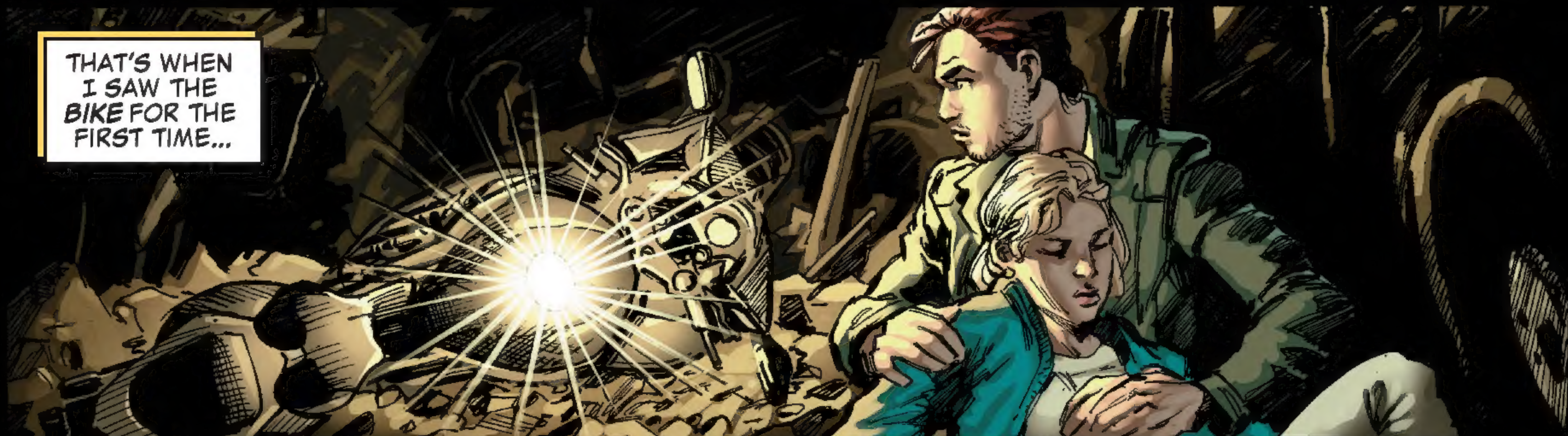
OF
COURSE.

ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE CYPRESS
HILLS CEMETERY...





I THOUGHT
I COULD HIDE
US AMONG A
PILE OF CARS.



THAT'S WHEN
I SAW THE
BIKE FOR THE
FIRST TIME...



...AND THE
MEDALLION
OF POWER.

I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT IT WAS...
DIDN'T KNOW HOW
MUCH IT WOULD
CHANGE MY LIFE...



...DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT
GHOST RIDER.

BUT I WAS
DRAWN TO IT.



WHAT IF I HADN'T
TOUCHED THE
MEDALLION AND
NEVER BECAME
GHOST RIDER?

WHAT IF I WASN'T BLINDLY
SEEKING VENGEANCE FOR THE
SPILLED BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT...

...SAVING
NOBODY?



WHAT IF--?



THAT SCRATCH... IS THAT NEW?



I'VE NEVER REALLY LOOKED AT THE MEDALLION SO CLOSELY BEFORE.

HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT AT ALL.



TIME TO RETHINK EVERYTHING.



IN ANOTHER PART
OF BROOKLYN...

I DON'T
CARE WHO
YOU WORK
FOR...FROM NOW
ON, YOU SKIM A
PIECE OFF FOR
THE BAGMAN
BROTHERS.

UGH!

FWACK



I...I...CAN'T.
DO YOU KNOW
WHO I ANSWER
TO? JIMMY-6!
HE'S--

WE
DON'T
CARE!

YOU--AND
EVERYONE ELSE--
ANSWER TO
US NOW!

THUD THUD

THUD



WHAT
DID YOU
JUST SAY? I
WORK FOR
YOU?

THE TWO
OF YUZ ARE
GONNA LET MY
MAN GO.

AND THE
THREE OF US ARE
GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE
TALK ABOUT HOW
THINGS OPERATE
AROUND HERE.

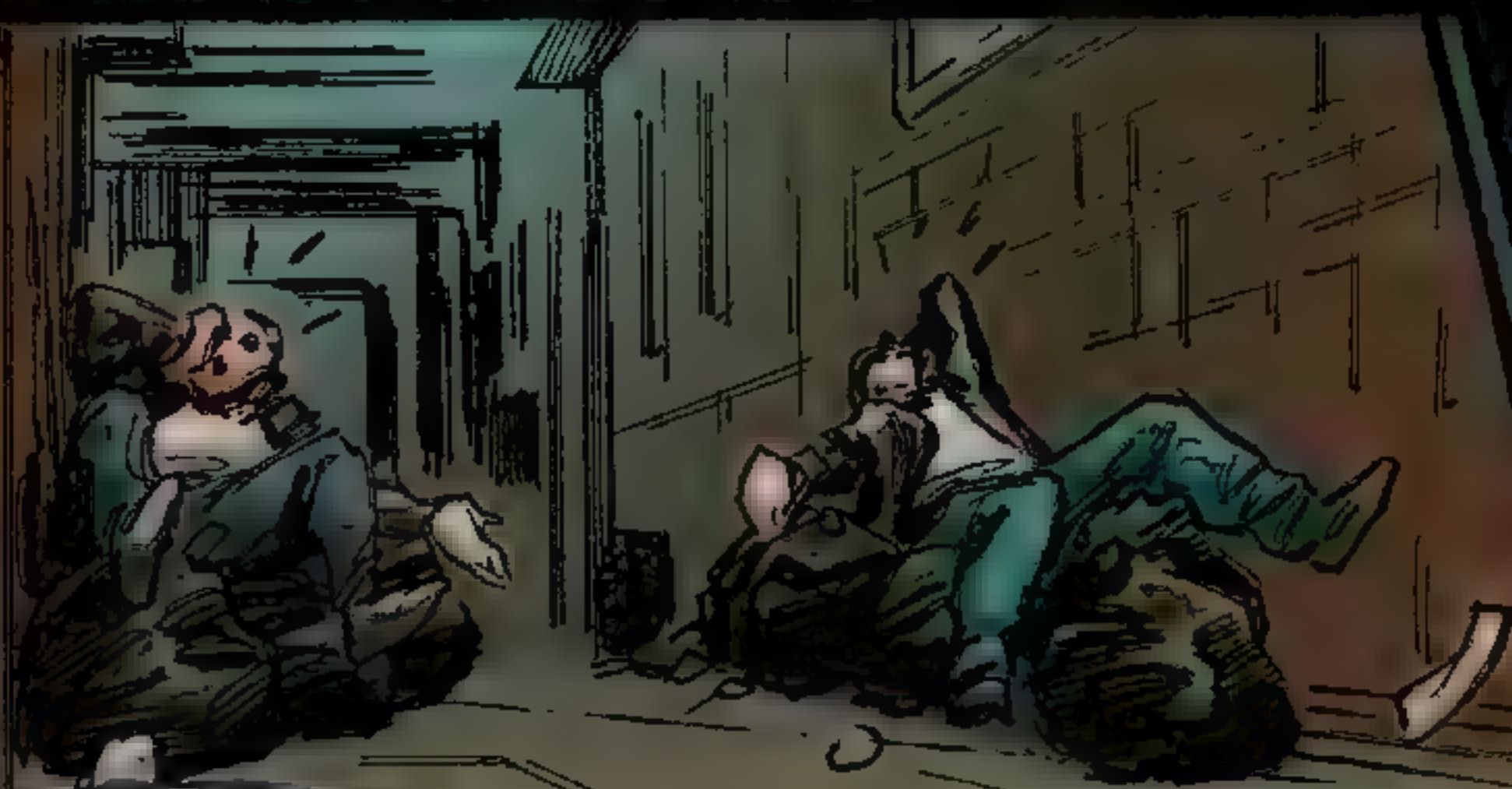
THOUGH IT'S
REALLY GOIN' TO
BE ME DOIN' THE
TALKIN'. YOU GUYS
ARE PROBABLY
JUST GOING
TO CRY.

A FEW
MINUTES
LATER...

YER NEW
AROUND HERE,
SO I TOOK IT EASY
ON YOU. THIS WAS
LESSON ONE, BOYS... YOU
DON'T SNIFF AROUND
THE TERRITORIES
OPERATED BY
JIMMY-6 OR DON
FORTUNATO.



LESSON
TWO IS...THERE
IS NO LESSON
TWO.



YOU APPEAR
TO NEED SOME
ASSISTANCE,
GENTLEMEN. RAYMOND
AND DONALD...
IF I'M NOT
MISTAKEN.

ERRRR...

ARRRR...



I AM THE **BROKER** OF
A VERY GENEROUS MAN
WHO SEEKS TO OFFER GIFTS
TO ONES SUCH AS THE
TWO OF YOU.

IF HIS TERMS
ARE ACCEPTED...I
WILL BESTOW UPON
YOU **GREAT
POWER.**



POWER THAT
WILL ALLOW YOU TO GET
RETRIBUTION ON THOSE
WHO HAVE INFLICTED
PAIN UPON YOU.

WHAA--?

THE
"CATCH," AS YOU
SAY, IS THAT HE
REQUIRES A SMALL
TASTE. I BELIEVE
THAT IS YOUR
VERNACULAR.

DO YOU
AGREE TO THE
TERMS?

ARRR...
ERRR...

I'LL
TAKE THAT
AS A YES.
IT IS A
DEAL.

NOOOOOOOO!

ARRRRRGH!

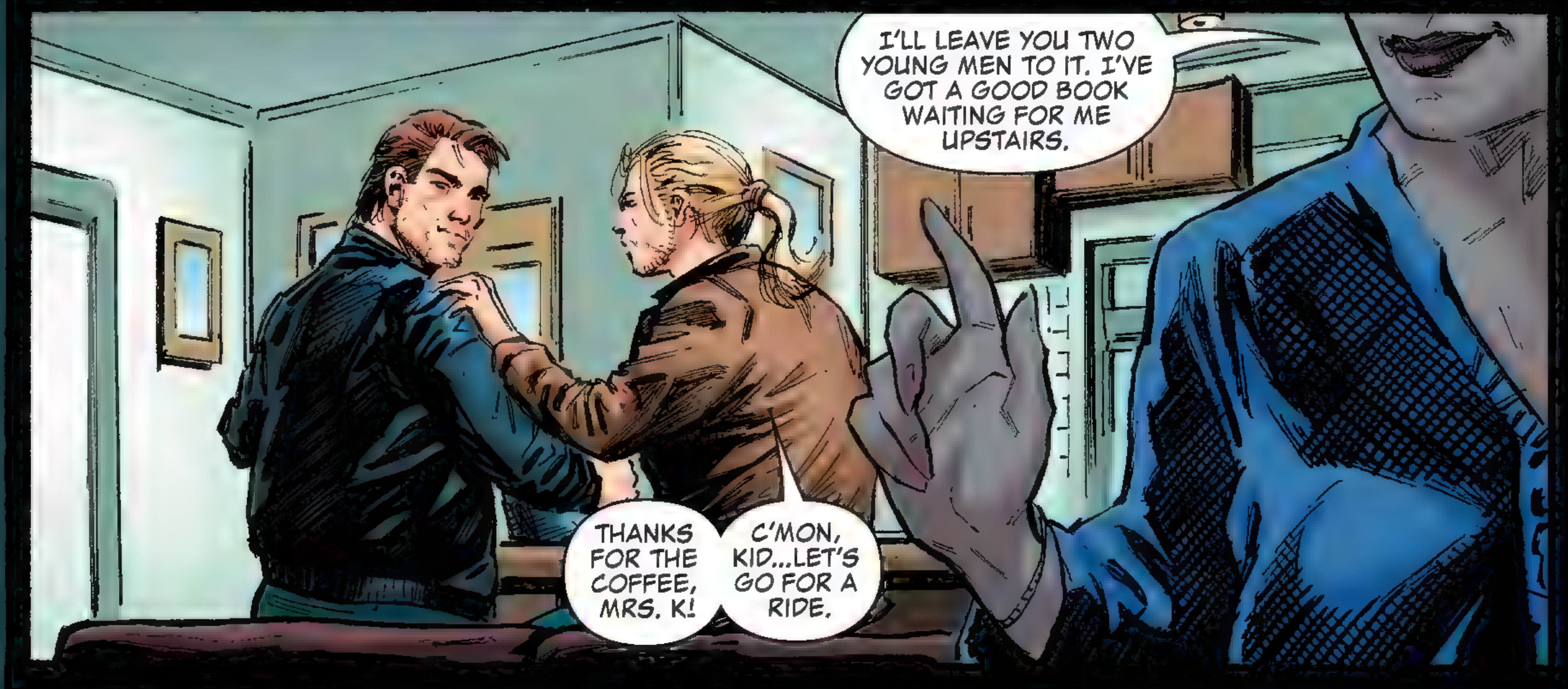


A SHORT
TIME LATER...

MOM! I--
BLAZE?!

ISN'T IT
A WONDERFUL
SURPRISE THAT
JOHNNY STOPPED
BY FOR A VISIT,
DANIEL?

THE QUENTIN
CARNIVAL IS PERFORMING
UPSTATE, SO I THOUGHT
I'D STOP BY AND SEE
MY TWO FAVORITE
CITY FOLKS.



I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO
YOUNG MEN TO IT. I'VE
GOT A GOOD BOOK
WAITING FOR ME
UPSTAIRS.

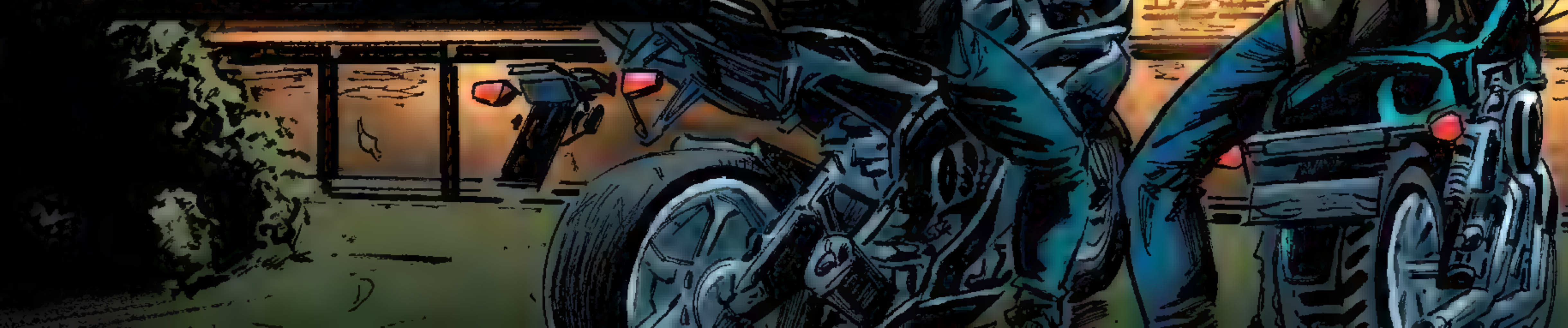
THANKS
FOR THE COFFEE,
MRS. K!

C'MON,
KID...LET'S
GO FOR A
RIDE.



I JUST GOT
BACK FROM--

I KNOW
WHAT YOU GOT
BACK FROM. I
CAN STILL SMELL
THE HELLFIRE
ON YOU.
LET'S GO.



THE OTHER SIDE
OF BROOKLYN...

MY MOM
PUT YOU UP
TO THIS,
RIGHT?

SHE'S
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU,
DAN.

HELL...
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT ME AND
EVERYONE ELSE...
ALWAYS.

I'VE GOT
THIS DEMON LIVING
INSIDE OF ME...WITH ALL
THIS POWER...AND
FOR WHAT?

I STILL
CAN'T KEEP
EVERYONE
SAFE.

YOU'RE
PREACHING TO
THE CHOIR,
DAN.

I'VE
TOLD YOU
HOW LONG I
TRIED TO PURGE
ZARATHOS AND
STOP BEING
A RIDER,
RIGHT?

HALF THE
TIME, IT SEEMS
LIKE WE **CREATE**
OUR OWN BAD
GUYS TO BRING
DOWN.



MAYBE IT'S SOME SORT OF KARMA.

YEAH... I'VE ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH *THIS* LIFE.

ANYWAY, HOW ARE THINGS BETWEEN YOU AND STACY?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I SAID FANTASTIC?

NOPE.

SHE'S A ROOKIE COP, HALF HER DEPARTMENT IS TRYING TO BRING GHOST RIDER DOWN...

...AND THE OTHER HALF IS TRYING TO DEAL WITH THE GANG WAR HEATING UP IN THE FIVE BOROUGHES.

THEY SHOULD JUST LET THE TRASH TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

YOU STILL NOT DOING THE HELMET THING?

NAH! TOO CONSTRICTING. NOT GOING TO CHANGE UNTIL I'M CAUGHT.

AND I WON'T BE CAUGHT.

WEEWOO WEEWOO WEEWOO WEEWOO WEEWOO WEEWOO WEEWOO





SEE WHAT I MEAN?
THAT THING IS TEARING
THROUGH MORE THAN A DOZEN
PEOPLE AND **NOTHING** FROM THE
MEDALLION...NO GLOW...NO
TRANSFORMATION.

WHAT'S
THE POINT?



I'M
GUESSING
THERE'S NOT A
LOT OF INNOCENT
BLOOD BEING
SPILLED DOWN
THERE.

LIKE I SAID...
LET THE TRASH
TAKE CARE OF
ITSELF.



STACY!



I'VE GOT
TO--

DON'T BE A
MORON, DAN.

YOU
GO IN LIKE
THIS...AGAINST
THAT THING...
AND YOU'RE
DEAD.

STACY
IS TRAINED
AND HAS A
GUN.



JIMMY-
6!!!

YOU'RE
ALL TALK AND
NO ACTION,
FAT MAN!



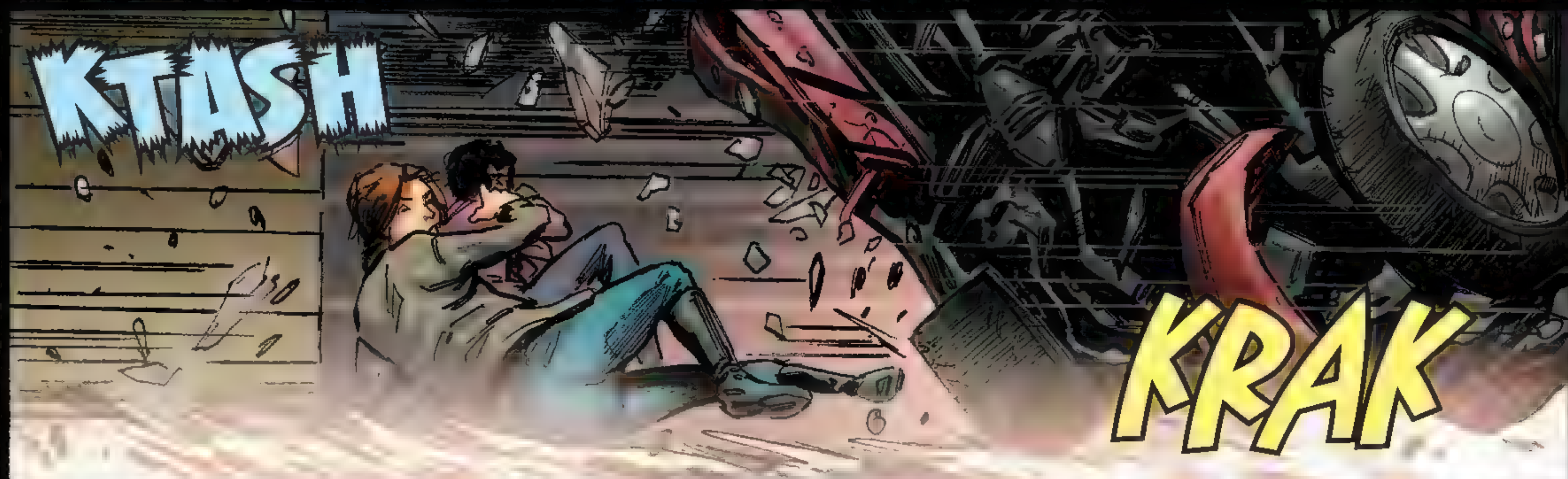
COME OUT
AND SHOW US
WHAT YOU'RE
MADE OF!

BECAUSE
THIS TERRITORY
BELONGS TO
THE BAGMAN
BROTHERS
FROM NOW
ON.

MOMMY?



NO!



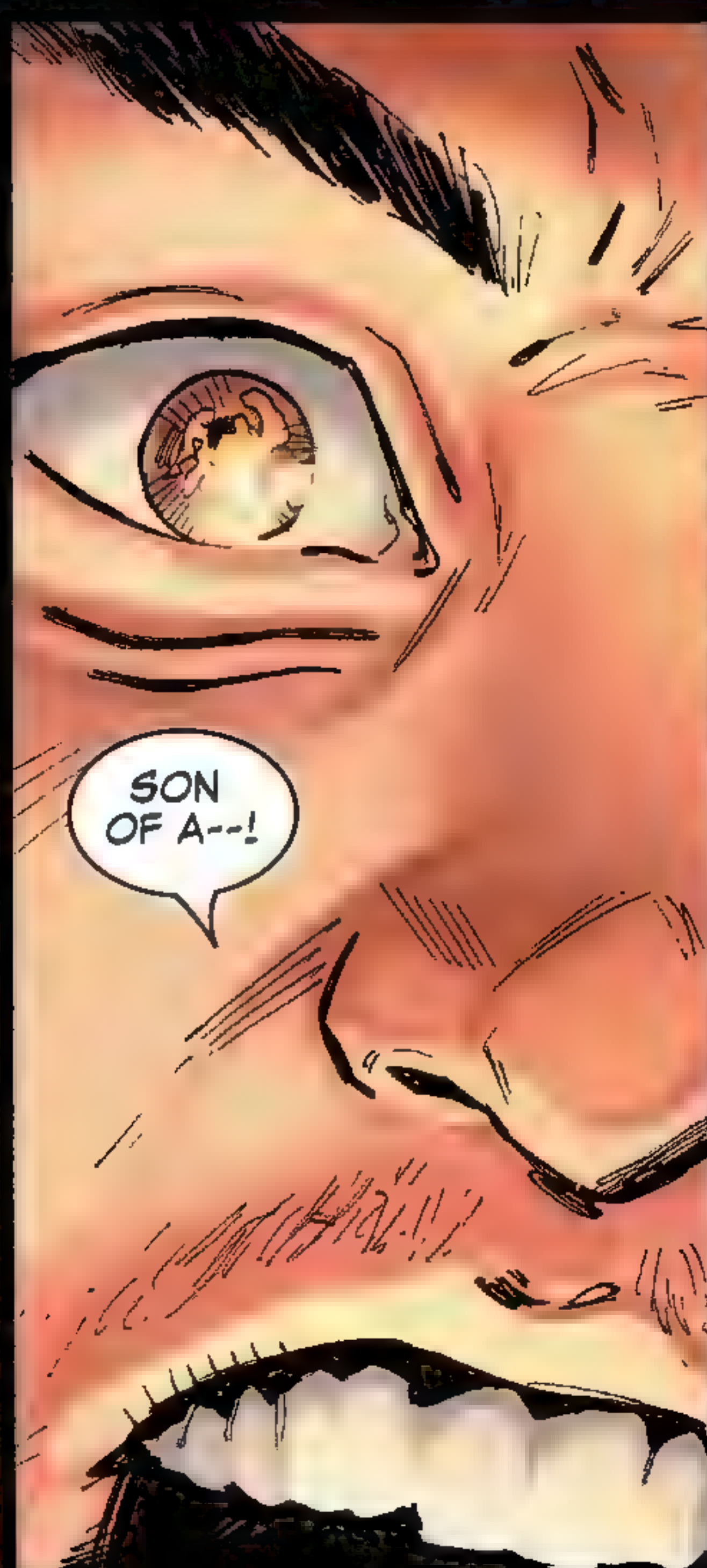
KTASH

KRAK



JUST STAY
BEHIND ME.

WE'RE
GOING TO
BE FINE.



SON
OF A--!



IT'S
ABOUT
FREAKIN'
TIME.

IF ONE WERE
ABLE TO OBSERVE
DANNY KETCH BEING
TRANSFORMED INTO
GHOST RIDER...

...IT WOULD
APPEAR TO
HAPPEN IN
THE BLINK
OF AN EYE.

A FLASH
OF LIGHT...

...AND THE
SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE
ASTRIDE
HIS BIKE.

TO DANNY, THE
TRANSFORMATION
LASTS AN ETERNITY.

SEARING
PAIN OF
HELLFIRE.

FLESH--HIS VERY
ESSENCE--MELTING
FROM HIS BODY.

AND JUST
WHEN DANNY
FEELS AS IF
DEATH IS
IMMINENT...

FWOOSH.

...DANNY IS
NO LONGER.

ONLY GHOST
RIDER REMAINS.



GUESS
IT'S TIME
FOR US TO
JOIN THE
FIGHT?

IT IS
PAST
TIME.

BE WARY
OF THE
INNOCENT.



HMM...HE'S
BEING THOUGHTFUL...
MAYBE THE KID'S
GETTING THROUGH
TO HIM?







GHOST RIDER?

WE'VE SEEN ALL ABOUT YOU ON TV. THAT REPORTER... LINDA WEI... SHE'S HOT!

SHE MAKES YOU SOUND PRETTY DANGEROUS, BUT...



...WE ARE NOT IMPRESSED!



I MEAN, REALLY... YOU'RE JUST A BUNCH OF FLAMING BONES.



NOT MUCH TOUGHER THAN JIMMY-6'S GORILLAS...AND THERE WERE A LOT OF THEM.

HE CAME WITH BACKUP TOO.

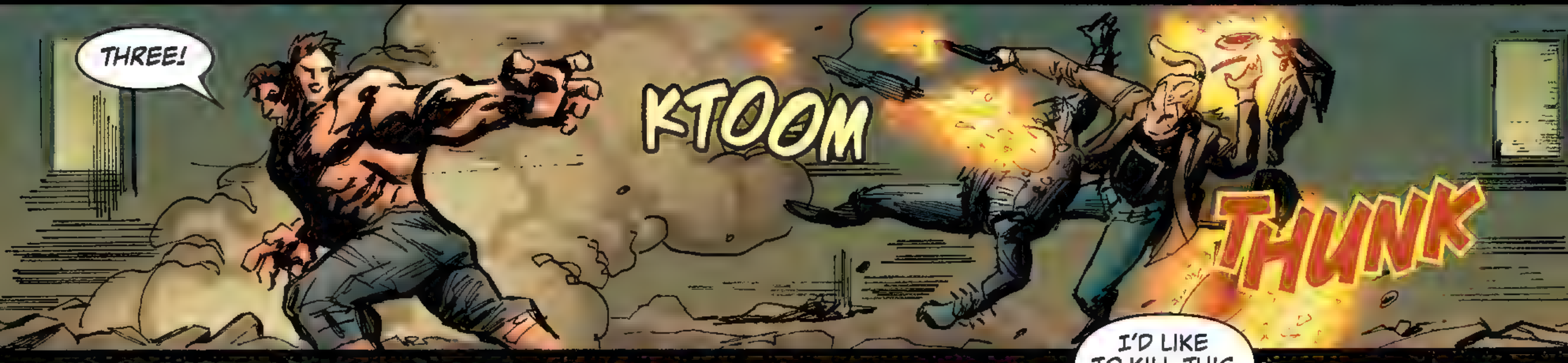
KLIK



YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO LET HIM GO.

TO SAY I'VE GOT A COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WHOLE FLAMING-SKULL THING WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT...

...BUT RIGHT NOW, HE'S CONNECTED TO SOMEONE I THINK OF LIKE A BROTHER. I'LL GIVE YOU TO THE COUNT OF THREE.

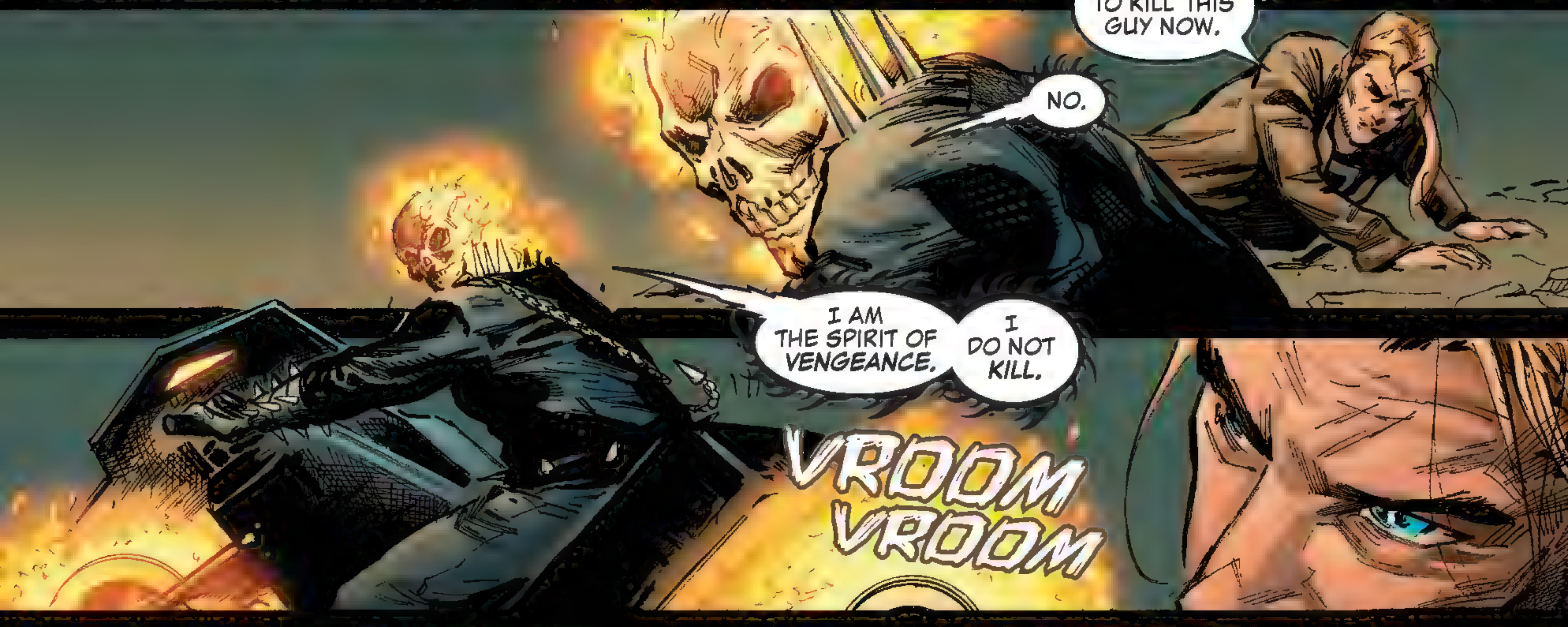


THREE!

KTOOM

THUNK

I'D LIKE TO KILL THIS GUY NOW.



NO.

I AM THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

I DO NOT KILL.

VROOM VROOM



BUT HE WILL SUFFER!



HA!

THAT'S
THE BEST
YOU'VE
GOT?

WE
ARE GOING
TO RIP THAT
SKULL OFF YOUR
SHOULDERS
AND SHOVE
IT UP--



TCHK

CHHK

CHHK

THOK

THOK

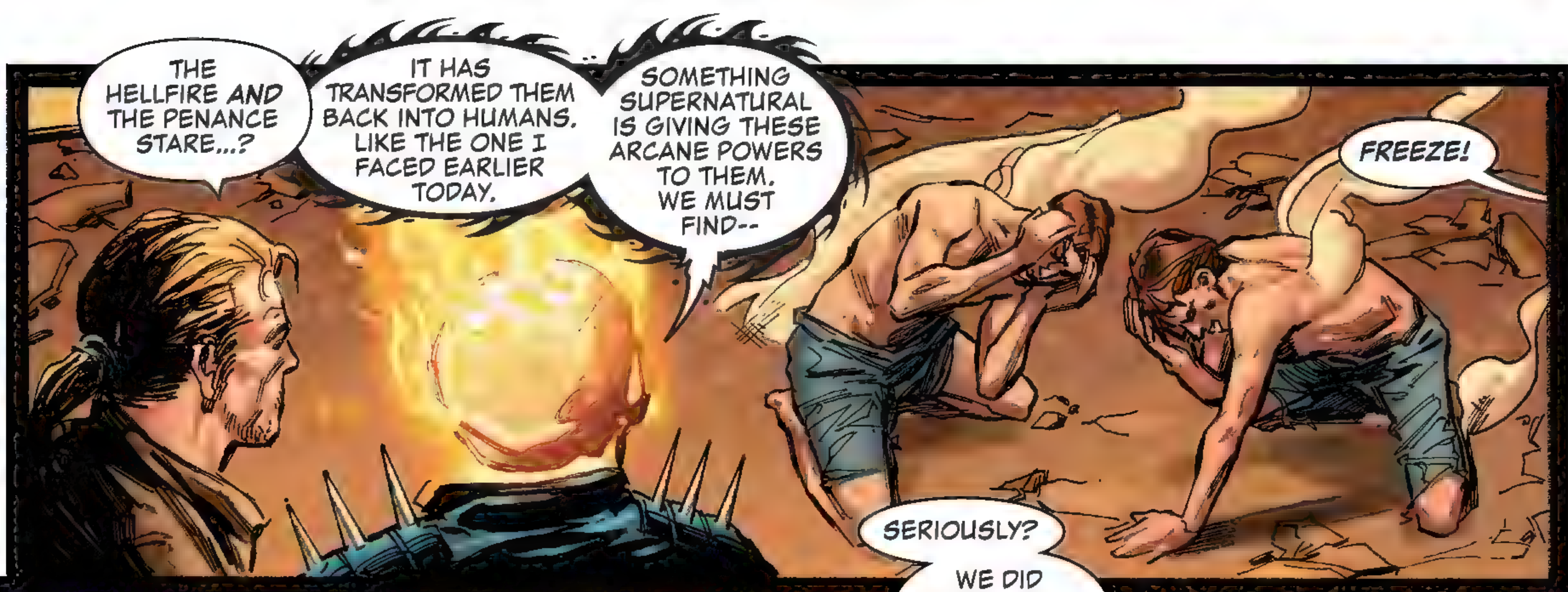
ARRRRRRGH!

NOOOO!
WHAT DID
YOU DO?! IT
BURNS!!!

YOU
THINK THAT
HURTS?

WAIT
UNTIL YOU
FEEL WHAT
HAPPENS
NEXT.

NOOOOOOOO!



THE
HELLFIRE AND
THE PENANCE
STARE...?

IT HAS
TRANSFORMED THEM
BACK INTO HUMANS.
LIKE THE ONE I
FACED EARLIER
TODAY.

SOMETHING
SUPERNATURAL
IS GIVING THESE
ARCAINE POWERS
TO THEM.
WE MUST
FIND--

FREEZE!

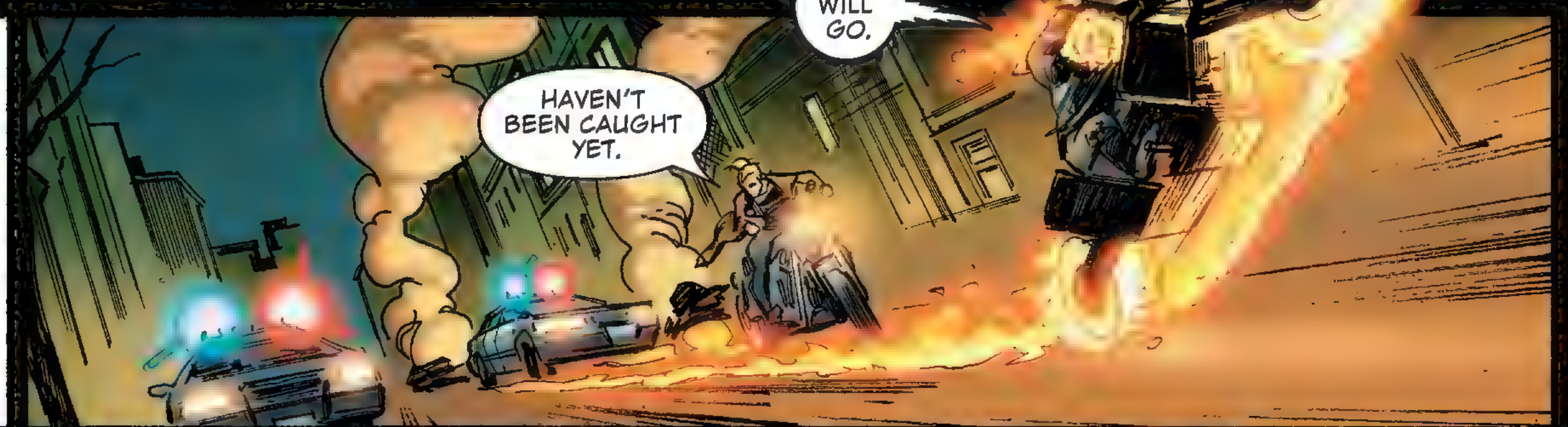
SERIOUSLY?

WE DID
JUST PUT AN
END TO THIS...
AND HE SAVED
YOUR LIFE!



WE
WILL
GO.

HAVEN'T
BEEN CAUGHT
YET.



I WANT
THEM.

I WANT
THEM IN
PIECES.



WHAT THE--?!



YOU TWO HAVE PROVEN TO BE ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT.



DISAPPOINTING ME IS ONE THING.

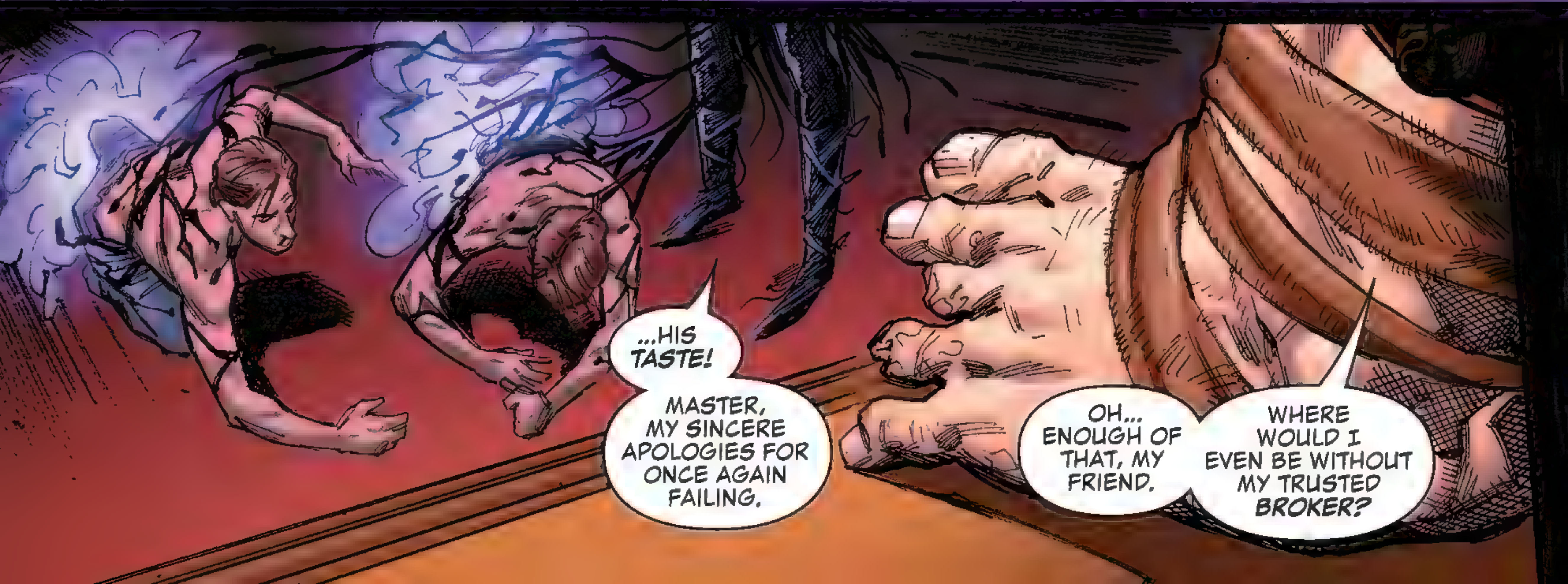
BUT NOW WE MUST ALL THREE FACE THE ONE WHO GAVE ME MY POWERS.



PAYMENT MUST BE MADE.



THE HOST WILL HAVE...



...HIS TASTE!

MASTER, MY SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR ONCE AGAIN FAILING.

OH... ENOUGH OF THAT, MY FRIEND.

WHERE WOULD I EVEN BE WITHOUT MY TRUSTED BROKER?



BRING
THESE
BROTHERS
CLOSER.

I DID HAVE
A TASTE OF THE
VIOLENCE THEY CAUSED.
THE DEATH, THE
DESTRUCTION, IT
WAS LOVELY.

ALL FED
THROUGH THE
PSYCHIC LINK CREATED
WHEN YOU ENHANCED
THEM WITH MY
POWERS.



AS ALWAYS...
IT ONLY SERVED TO
WHET MY APPETITE
FOR A LITTLE
SOMETHING
MORE.



ARE YOU
NOTICING MY
HAND? THE
MISSING
FINGERS?

AH YES...A
MISFORTUNE FROM
MY YOUTH. FROM
A TIME BEFORE I
HAD MY GREATER
POWERS.

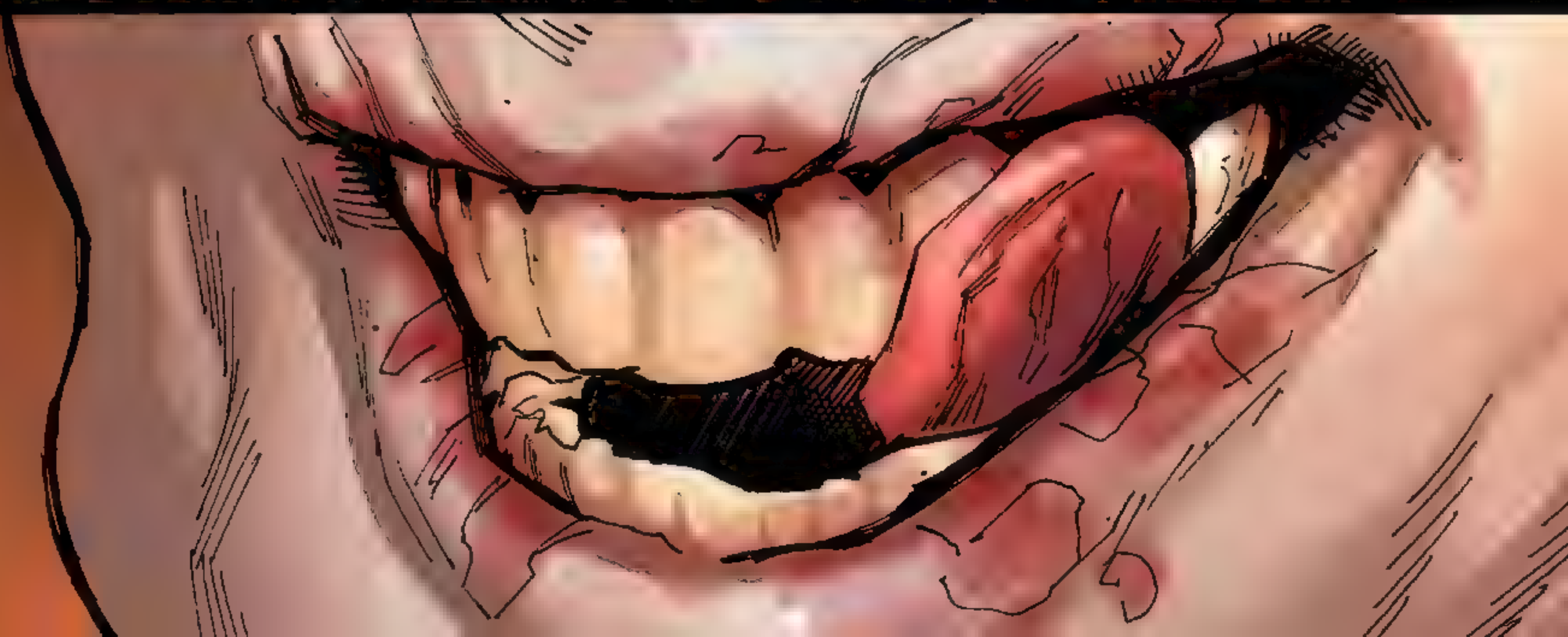
I WAS JUST
A LOWLY MORLOCK
BACK THEN...AND
ALWAYS SO HUNGRY...
SCOURING THE
WORST PLACES FOR
SUSTENANCE.



BUT THE
PAST IS THE PAST.
FOR NOW...I HAVE
FEASTED UPON YOUR
EXPERIENCES.

NOW I
REQUIRE THE
TASTE OF SOMETHING
A LITTLE MORE...
PALATABLE.

AHHHHH
N-NOOOOOO



SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER, IN
THE CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

AN ARCAINE
BATTLE IS ENDING.

PEACE AND QUIET HAVE
TEMPORARILY RETURNED TO
A GRAVEYARD THAT SERVES
AS A NEXUS TO DARKNESS...

...AND TO
LIGHT.

WELL...
IT'S DONE,
CARETAKER. THE
RETRIEVAL OF THE
MEDALLION WENT
AS PLANNED.

A LITTLE
HARDER THAN
I THOUGHT,
BUT IT'S
DONE.



THE ONLY
THING THAT'S
IMPORTANT IS
THAT WE
HAVE...



...THIS.



AND
THAT IT BE
READY WHEN
HE IS.



ALL THE
THREADS ARE
COMING TOGETHER
FOR THE NEXT
RIDER.



IT'S GONNA
TAKE A COUPLE
OF YEARS FOR THE
NEXT HOST TO
BE READY.

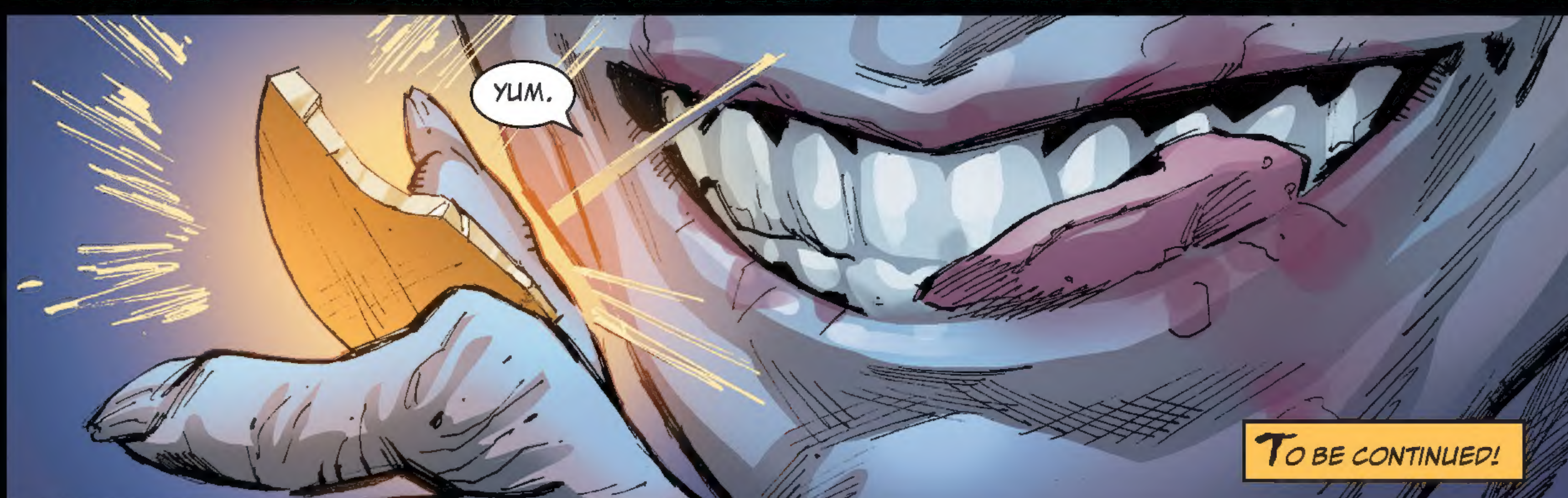


I'M GOING
TO STASH
THIS THING
AWAY UNTIL
THEN.



DAMN!





TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT: MEET THE BROKER

THIS NEW ADVERSARY IS BOOSTING THE POWERS OF GHOST RIDER'S ENEMIES. BUT WHAT IS HIS ULTIMATE GOAL? AND WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH DANNY KETCH AND JOHNNY BLAZE?



